

REMARKS

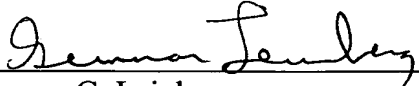
Applicant has cancelled claims 23-36, 38-40, 45-47, and 51-70 and has amended claims 37, 41, 44, and 48 as set forth above. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Applicants note with appreciation the Office's indication that claims 1-22 are allowable over the prior art of record and claims 40-43 and 47-50 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

The Office has rejected claims 37-39 and 44-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,093,763 to Vanderschuit et al. (Vanderschuit) and has objected to claims 40-43 and 47-50 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 37 to include the limitations of claim 40 which the Office has indicated is allowable over the prior art of record along with the limitations of the intervening claims 38 and 39. Additionally, Applicants have amended claim 44 to include the limitations of claim 47 which the Office has indicated is allowable over the prior art of record along with the limitations of the intervening claims 45 and 46. Further Applicants have canceled claims 38-40 and 45-47, amended claim 41 to depend from claim 37, and amended claim 48 to depend from claim 44. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection and objection.

In view of all of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 22, 2007
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Sherri A. Moscato
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